

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-11 are amended and claim 12 is added. Support for the amendments to claims 1-11 and new claim 12 can be found in the specification, for example, on p. 2, lines 16-23; p. 5, line 9-p. 6, line 3; and Figs. 5a, 5b and 8-10. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Nomura (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,189); and rejects claims 2 and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nomura. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Nomura does not teach, and would not have rendered obvious, every claim feature of independent claim 1. Nomura does not teach "a second switch that controls an electrical connection between the first transistor and the second transistor," and "a third switch that controls an electrical connection between the first transistor and the third transistor," as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that Fig. 8 of Nomura discloses a transferring transistor QT and a resetting MOS transistor QP (Office Action, page 2). However, Nomura merely discloses both transistors QT and QP being connected to the first transistor QD through transistor QB and the gate of transistor QA. Nomura does not disclose a second switch that controls an electrical connection between the first transistor and the second transistor and a third switch that controls an electrical connection between the first transistor and the third transistor. Therefore, Nomura does not teach, and would not have rendered obvious, all of the claim features of independent claim 1.

Further, Applicant notes that the Office Action on page 3 asserts that transistor QA of Nomura is an independent (individual) transistor. However, the Office Action with respect to claim 1 asserts that the transistors QT and QP in Fig. 8 of Nomura are the switches connecting the current sources to the current mirror (Office Action, Page 2). Accordingly, the Office Action is

interpreting that switches QP and QT are not the current sources themselves. Therefore, the reasoning of the Office Action appears to be inconsistent.

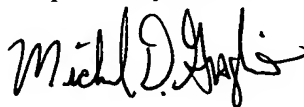
Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claim 1 is patentable over Nomura. Claims 2-12 depend from independent claim 1, thus claims 2-12 are also patentable over Nomura for at least their dependency on independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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